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THE PETITION OF The Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament.

Presented to His MAIESTIE at *Beverley* the 16 of *July.* 1642.

With His MAIESTIES Answer thereunto.

21

¶ By the King.

Our expresse pleasure is, That this Our Answer be read and published throughout all Churches and Chappels of the Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*,

By the severall Parsons, Vicars, or Curats of the same.

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1642.

THE HVMBLE PETITION Of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament : Presented to His MAIESTIE at *Beverley* the 16 of *July*. 1642.

May it please your Majestie,

ALthough we, Your Majesties most humble and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, have been very unhappy in many former Petitions and Supplications to Your Majestie, wherein we have represented our most dutifull Affections, in advising and desiring those things which we held most necessary for the preservation of Gods true Religion, Your Majesties safety and Honour, and the peace of the Kingdom; And with much sorrow do perceive, That Your Majestie, incensed by many false Calumnies and Slanders, doth continue to raise Forces against us, and Your other peaceable and loyall Subjects, and to make great preparations for War, both in the Kingdom, and from beyond the Seas; And by Arms and Violence to over-rule the Judgement and Advice of Your great Councell; and by force to determine the Questions there depending, concerning the Government and Liberty of the

Kingdom: Yet such is our earnest desire of discharging our dutie to Your Majestie and the Kingdom, to preserve the peace thereof, and to prevent the miseries of Civill VVar amongst Your Subjects; That notwithstanding we hold our selves bound to use all the means and power, which by the Laws and Constitutions of this Kingdom we are trusted with for defence and protection thereof, and of the Subjects from force and violence; We do in this our humble and loyall Petition prostrate our selves at Your Majesties feet; beseeching your Royall Majestie, That you will be pleased to forbear, and remove all Preparations and Actions of War, particularly, the Forces from about *Hull*, from *Newcastle*, *Tynmouth*, *Lincoln*, and *Lincolnshire*, and all other places; And that Your Majestie will recall the Commissions of Array, which are illegall; Dismisse Troops, and extraordinary Guards by You raised; That Your Majestie will come neerer to your Parliament, and hearken to their faithfull Advice and humble Petitions, which shall onely tend to the defence and advancement of Religion, Your own Royall Honour and safety, the preservation of Our Laws and Liberties: And we have been, and shall ever be carefull to prevent and punish all Tumults, and seditious Actions, Speeches, and Writings, which may give Your Majestie just cause of distaste or apprehension of danger; from which publike Aims and Resolutions, no sinister or private respect shall ever make us to decline: That Your Majestie will leave Delinquents to the due course of Justice; And that nothing done or spoken in Parliament, or by any Person in pursuance of the Command and Direction of both Houses of Parliament, be questioned any where but in Parliament.

And we, for our parts, shall be ready to lay down all those preparations which we have been forced to make for our

defence.

defence. And for the Town of *Hull*, and the Ordinance concerning the *Militia*; As we have in both these Particulars, onely sought the preservation and peace of the Kingdom, and the defence of the Parliament, from force and violence, so we shall most willingly leave the Town of *Hull* in the state it was before Sir *John Hotham* drew any forces into it; delivering Your Majesties Magazine into the Tower of *London*, and supplying whatsoever hath been disposed by us for the service of the Kingdom: We shall be readie to settle the *Militia* by a Bill, in such a way as shall be Honourable and safe for Your Majestie, most agreeable to the Dutie of Parliament, and effectuall for the good of the Kingdom; that the strength thereof be not imployed against it self, and that which ought to be for our security, applyed to our destruction: And that the Parliament, and those who professe and desire still to preserve the Protestant Religion, both in this Realm and in *Ireland*, may not be left naked, and indefensible to the mischievous designes, and cruell attempts of those who are the profest & confederated enemies thereof, in Your Majesties Dominions, and other neighbour-Nations. To which, if Your Majesties Courses and Councels shall from henceforth concur, We doubt not but we shall quickly make it appear to the World, by the most eminent effects of Love and Duty, That Your Majesties personall safety, Your Royall Honour and Greatnesse are much dearer to us then our own Lives and Fortunes, which we do most heartily Dedicate, and shall most willingly imploy for the support and maintenance thereof.

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HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER.

To the aforesaid Petition.

THough His Majestie had no great reason to beleeve, That the directions sent to the Earle of Warwick, to go to the River of Humber, with as many Ships as he should think fit, for all possible Assistance to Sir John Hotham; (whilst His Majestie expected the giving up of the Town unto Him) and to carry away such Arms from thence, as his discretion thought fit to spare out of His Majesties own Magazine; The chusing a Generall by both Houses of Parliament, for the Defence of those who have obeyed their Orders and Commands (be they never so extravagant and illegall;) Their Declaration, That in that Case, they would Live and Dye with the Earle of Essex their Generall; (all which were Voted the same day with this Petition) and the Committing the

Lord

Lord Major of London to Prison, for executing His Majesties Writs and Lawfull Commands, were but ill Prologues to a Petition which might Compose the miserable Distractions of the Kingdom, Yet, His Majesties passionate desire of the Peace of the Kingdom, together with the Preface of the Presenters, That they had brought a Petition full of Duty and Submission to His Majestie, and which desired nothing of Him, but His Consent to Peace, (which His Majestie conceived, to be the Language of both Houses too) begot a greedy hope and expectation in Him, That this Petition, would have been such an Introduction to Peace, that it would at least have satisfied His Message of the eleventh of this Moneth, by delivering up Hull unto His Majestie. But to His unspeakable grief, His Majestie hath too much cause to beleeve, That the end of some persons, by this Petition, is not in truth, to give any reall satisfaction to His Majestie, but by the specious pretences of making offers to Him, to Mis-lead, and Seduce His People, and lay some imputation upon Him, of denying what is fit to be granted; otherwise, it would not have thrown those unjust Reproaches and Scandalls upon His Majestie, for making necessary and just Defence for His own Safety, and so peremptorily justified such Actions against Him, as by no rule of Law or Justice, can admit the least colour of defence; and after so many free and unlimited Acts of Grace passed by His Majestie, without any Condition, have proposed such things, which in Justice cannot be denyed to Him, upon such Conditions, as, in Honour, He cannot Grant. However, that all the world may see how willing His

Majestie

Majestie would be to embrace any overture, that might beget a right understanding between Him and His two Houses of Parliament, (with whom He is sure He shall have no contention, when the private practices, and subtill insinuations of some few Malignant Persons shall be discovered, which his Majestie will take care, shall be speedily done) He hath with great care weighed the particulars of this Petition, and returnes this Answer.

That the Petitioners were never unhappy in their Petitions or Supplications to his Majestie, whilest they desired any thing which was necessary or convenient for the preservation of Gods true Religion, His Majesties safety and honour, and the Peace of the Kingdom; and therefore when those generall envious foundations are laid, his Majestie could with some particular instances had been applyed. Let Envie and Malice object one particular Proposition for the preservation of Gods true Religion, which His Majestie hath refused to consent to; what Himself hath often made for the ease of tender Consciences, and for the Advancement of the Protestant Religion, is notorious by many of his Messages, and Declarations; what regard hath been to His honour and safety, when He hath been driven from some of His Houses, and kept from other of His Towns by Force; and what care there hath been of the peace of the Kingdom when endeavour hath been used to put all his Subjects in Arms against Him, is so evident, that His Majestie is confident, He cannot suffer by those generall imputations: Tis enough that the world knows what He hath granted, and what He hath denyed.

for his Majesties raysing forces, and making preparations for War, (whatsoever the Petitioners, by the ill Acts of the Enemies to his Majesties person and Government, and by the calumnies and slanders raised against his Majestie by them, are induced to beleeve) all men may know, what is done that way is but in Order to his own Defence. Let the Petitioners remember, That (which all the world knows) his Majestie was driven from his Palace of Whitehall for safety of his Life, That both houses of Parliament, upon their own Authority, rayled a Guard to themselves, (having gotten the Command of all the Train-bands of London to that purpose) without the least colour or shadow of Danger; That they usurped a Power, by their pretented Ordinance, (against all principles and elements of Law) over the whole Militia of the Kingdom, without and against his Majesties Consent; That they toobe Possession of his Town, Fort, and Magazine of Hull, and committed the same to Sir John Hotham, who shut the Gates against his Majestie; and by force of Arms, denyed entrance thither to His own Person; That they justified this Act, which they had not directed, and took Sir John Hotham into their protection for whatsoever he had done, or should do against his Majestie; And all this whilst his Majestie had no other attendance, then His own meniall Servants: Upon this, the duty and affection of this County prompted his Subjects here to provide a small Guard for His own Person; which was no sooner done, but a Vote suddenly passed of his Majesties intention to leve War against his Parliament (which God knows His Heart abhorreth) and

notwithstanding, all his Majesties Protestations, Declarations, and Protestations to the contrary, seconded by the cleer Testimony of so great a number of Peers upon the place, Propositions and Orders for levies of Men, Horse, and Arms were sent throughout the Kingdom; Plate, and Money brought in, and received; Horse, and Men raised towards an Army, mustered, and under Command; and all this contrary to the Law, and to his Majesties Proclamation: And a Declaration published, That if he should use force for the recovery of Hull, or suppressing the pretended Ordinance for the Militia, it should be held levying War, against the Parliament; and all this don before his Majestie granted any Commission, for the levying, or raising a Man: his Majesties Ships were taken from him, and committed to the custody of the Earle of Warwick, who presumes, under that Power, to usurp to himselfe the Soveraignty of the Sea; to chase, fright, and imprison such of his Majesties good Subjects as desire to obey his lawfull Commands, although he had notice of the legall Revocation of the Earle of Northumberlands Commission of Admirall, whereby all Power derived from that Commission ceased. Let all the world now judge who began this War, and upon whose account the miseries which may follow must be cast, what his Majestie could have done lesse then he hath done, and whether he were not compelled to make provision, both for the Defence of himself, and recovery of what is so violently, and injuriously taken from Him, and whether these Injuries, and Indignities are not full grounds for his Majesties Fears, and Apprehensions of further Mi-

chief and danger to Him: Whence the Fears and Jealousies of the Petitioners have proceeded, hath never been discovered, the dangers they have brought upon his good subiects are too evident, what those are they have prevented, no man knows: And therefore his Majestie cannot but look upon that charge, as the boldest, and the most scandalous hath been yet laid upon Him, That this necessary provision, made for His own Safety and Defence, is to over-rule the Judgement and advice of His great Councell, and by force to determine the questions there depending, concerning the Government and Liberty of the Kingdom: If no other force had been raised, to determine those questions then by His Majestie, this unhappy mis-understanding had not been: And his Majestie no longer desires the blessing, and protection of Almighty God upon Himself, and His Posterity, then He and they shall solemnly observe the due execution of the Laws, in the defence of Parliaments, and the iust freedom thereof.

For the Forces about Hull, His Majestie will remove them, when He hath attained the end for which they were brought thither; when Hull shall be reduced again to His subiection, He will no longer have an Army before it; And when He shall be assured, That the same necessity, and pretence of publique good, which took Hull from Him, may not put a Garrison into Newcastle, to keep the same against Him, He will remove His from thence, and from Tinmouth; till when the example of Hull will not out of his memory.

For the Commissions of Array, which are legall, and are so proved by a Declaration now in the Presse,

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his Majeſtie wonders why they ſhould at this time be thought grievous, and fit to be recalled; If the fears of Invaſion and Rebellion be ſo great, that by an illegall pretended Ordinance tis neceſſary to put his Subjects into a poſture of defence, to Array, Train, and Muſter them, He knows not why the ſame ſhould not be done in a Regular, Known, Lawfull way; but if in the execution of that Commiſſion any thing ſhall be unlawfully impoſed upon his Subjects, his Majeſtie will take all iuſt and neceſſary care for their redreſſe.

For His Majeſties coming neerer to his Parliament, His Majeſtie hath expreſſed Himſelf ſo fully in His ſeverall Meſſages, Anſwers, and Declarations, & ſo particularly avowed a reall fear of His ſafety, upon ſuch inſtances as cannot be anſwered, that He hath reaſon to take Himſelf ſomewhat neglected, That ſince upon ſo manifeſt reaſons, tis not ſafe for His Majeſtie to come to them, both His Houſes of Parliament will not come neerer to His Majeſtie, or to ſuch a Place, where the Freedome and dignity of Parliament might be preſerved. However His Majeſtie ſhall be very glad to hear of ſome ſuch example in their puniſhing the Tumults, (which He knows not how to expect, when they have declared that they knew not of any Tumults, though the Houſe of Peers deſired, both for the Dignity and Freedome of Parliament, that the Houſe of Commons would joyn with them in a Declaration againſt Tumults) which they refuſed (that is, neglected to do) and other ſeditious Actions, Speeches, and Writings, as may take that apprehenſion of danger from Him: Though, when He remembers the

particular complaints Himself hath made of business of that nature, and that instead of inquiring out the Authors, neglect of examination hath been, when offer hath been made to both Houses to produce the Authors, (as in that treasonable Paper concerning the Militia) and when he sees every day Pamphlets published against his Crown, and against Monarchy it self, as the Observations upon his late Messages, Declarations, and Expressions, and some Declarations of their own, which give too great encouragement in that Argument to ill-affected persons; his Majestie cannot with confidence entertain those hopes which would be most welcome to him.

For the leaving Delinquents to the due course of Justice, his Majestie is most assured he hath been no shelter to any such; if the tediousnesse and delay in prosecution, the vast charge in Officers Fees, the keeping men under a generall Accusation without tryall a whole yeer and more, and so allowing them no way for their defence and vindication, have frighted men away from so chargeable and uncertain an attendance, the remedy is best provided where the disease grew. If the Law be the measure of Delinquency, none such are within his Majesties protection: But, if by Delinquents such are understood who are made so by vote, without any trespasse upon any known or established Law; If by Delinquents those nine Lords are understood, who are made Delinquents for obeying his Majesties Summons to come to him, after their stay there was neither safe nor honourable, by reason of the Tumults and other violences, and whose impeachment, he is confident, is the greatest breach of Privi-

ledge

ledge that, before this Parliament, was ever offered to the House of Peers; If by Delinquents such are understood, who refuse to submit to the pretended Ordinance of the Militia; to that of the Navie; or to any other which his Majestie hath not consented to; Such, who for the peace of the Kingdom, in an humble manner, prepare Petitions to him, or to both Houses, as his good Subjects of London and Kent did, whilest seditious ones, as that of Essex and other places are allowed and cherished; If by Delinquents such are understood, who are called so, for publishing his Proclamations (as the Lord Major of London) or for reading his Messages and Declarations (as divers Ministers about London and elsewhere) when those against him are dispersed with all Care and Industry, to poyson and corrupt the loyalty and affection of his people; If by Delinquents such are understood, who have, or shall lend his Majestie money in the Universities, or in any other places; his Majestie declares to all the world, that he will protect such with His utmost power and strength, and directs, That in these Cases they submit not to any Messengers or Warrants, it being no lesse his duty to protect those who are innocent, then to bring the guilty to condigne punishment; of both which the Law is to be judge: And if both Houses do think fit to make a Generall, and to raise an Army for defence of those who obey their Orders and Commands, his Majestie must not sit still, and suffer such who submit to his just power, and are solicitous for the Laws of the Land, to perish and be undone, because they are called Delinquents. And when they shall take upon them to dispence with the attend-

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ance of those who are called by his Majesties Writ, whilst they send them to Sea to rob his Majestie of his Ships, or into the severall Counties to put his Subjects in Arms against him; his Majestie (who onely hath it) will not lose the power to dispence with them to attend his own person, or to execute such Offices as are necessary for the preservation of himself and the Kingdom, but must protect them, though they are called Delinquents.

For the manner of the proceeding against Delinquents, his Majestie will proceed against those who have no Priviledge of Parliament, or in such Cases where no priviledge is to be allowed, as he shall be advised by his learned Councell, and according to the known and unquestionable rules of the Law; it being unreasonable, that he should be compelled to proceed against those who have violated the known and undoubted Law onely before them who have directed such violation.

Having said thus much to the particulars of the Petition, though his Majestie hath reason to complain, That since the sending this Petition, they have beaten their Drums for Souldiers against him, armed their new Generall with a Power destructive to the Law and liberty of the Subjects, and chosen a Generall of their Horse; His Majestie, out of his Princely Love, Tenderneſſe, and Compassion of his People, and desire to preserve the peace of the Kingdom, that the whole force and strength of it may be united for the defence of it self, and the relief of Ireland, (in whose behalf he conjures both his Houses of Parliament, as they will answer the contrary to Almighty God, his Majestie,

ſtie, to thoſe that truſt them, & to that bleeding miſerable Kingdom, that they ſuffer not any Moneys granted and collected by Act of Parliament to be diverted, or imployed againſt his Majeſtie, whileſt his Souldiers in that Kingdom, are ready to mutiny or periſh for want of pay, and the barbarous Rebels prevail by that encouragement) is graciouſly pleaſed once more, to propoſe and require.

That his Town of Hull be immediately delivered up to him; which being done (though his Majeſtie hath been provoked by unheard of Inſolencies of Sir John Hotham, ſince his burning, and drowning the Countrey, in ſeizing his Wine and other Proviſions for his houſe, and ſcornfully uſing his Servant, whom he ſent to require them, ſaying, It came to him by Providence, and he will keep it; and ſo refuſing to deliver it, with threats, if he or any other of his Fellow-ſervants ſhould again repair to Hull about it; and in taking and detaining Priſoners divers Gentlemen, and others, in their paſſage over the Humber into Lincolnſhire about their neceſſary occaſions, & ſuch other Indignities, (as all Gentlemen muſt reſent in his Majeſties behalf) his Majeſtie, to ſhew his earneſt deſire of Peace (for which he will diſpence with his own honour) and how far he is from deſire of Revenge, will grant a free and generall Pardon to all perſons within that Town.

That his Majeſties Magazine taken from Hull, be forthwith put into ſuch hands as he ſhall appoint.

That his Navie be forthwith delivered into ſuch hands as he hath directed for the government thereof, the detaining thereof after his Majeſties directions publiſhed and received to the contrary.

and imploying his Ships against him in such manner as they are now used, being notorious High Treason in the Commanders of those Ships.

That all Arms, Levies, and Provisions for a War, made by the Consent of both Houses (by whose example his Majestie hath been forced to make some preparations) be immediately laid down, and the pretended Ordinance for the Militia, and all power of imposing Laws upon the Subject, without his Majesties consent be disavowed, without which, the same pretence will remain to produce the same mischiefs, all which his Majestie may as lawfully demand, as to live, and can with no more Justice be denyed Him, then his Life may be taken from Him.

These being done, and the Parliament adjourned to a safe and secure place, his Majestie promises, in the presence of God, and binds himself, by all his Confidence and assurance in the affection of his people, that he will instantly, and most cheerfully, lay down all the force he shall have raised and discharge all his future and intended Levies, that there may be a generall rest of Peace over the whole Kingdom, and will receive to them, And desires that all differences may be freely debated in a Parliamentary way, whereby the Law may recover its due reverence, the Subject his full Liberty, and Parliaments themselves, their full vigour and estimation; and so the whole Kingdom a setled Peace, Quiet, and Prosperity.

If these Propositions shall be rejected, his Majestie desires not of the protection and assistance of Almighty God, and the ready concurrence of his good

Subjects,

Subjects, who can have no hope left them of enjoying their own long, if their King may be oppressed, and spoyled, and must be remedilesse. And though his Towns, his Ships, his Arms, and his Money be gotten and taken from him, He hath a good Cause left, and the hearts of his people, which, with Gods blessing, he doubts not, will recover all the rest.

Lastly, if the preservation of the Protestant Religion, the defence of the Liberty and Law of the Kingdom, the Dignity and freedom of Parliament, and the Recoverie and the Relief of bleeding and miserable Ireland be equally precious to the Petitioners, as they are to his Majestie (who will have no quarrell but in defence of these) there will be a cheerfull and speedy consent to what his Majestie hath now proposed and desired.

And of this, his Majestie expects a full and positive Answer, by Wednesday the 27, of this instant July: till when he will not make any attempt of force upon Hull; hoping in the Affection, Duty, and Loyalty of the Petitioners; And in the mean time expects, That no supply of Men be put into Hull, or any of his Majesties goods taken from thence.

FINIS.